

# 2022-12-06 - EFCC Minutes

## Participants

### Voting members

Ken Burke - Vice Chair/Secretary, [kburke12@comcast.net](mailto:kburke12@comcast.net)

Melissa Mitchell - [mmitchell@shead.org](mailto:mmitchell@shead.org)

Paul Sheehy - [psheehy@cloud-works.net](mailto:psheehy@cloud-works.net)

Mark Wigley - Chair, [eastportmark@gmail.com](mailto:eastportmark@gmail.com)

### Non-Voting members

Elaine Abbott - Community & Economic Development Planner, Sunrise County Economic Council, [eabbott@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:eabbott@sunrisecounty.org)

Ann Bellefleur - Selectman, Perry, [perryselectman@gmail.com](mailto:perryselectman@gmail.com)

Kate Devonshire - Eastport City Manager, [citymanager@eastport-me.gov](mailto:citymanager@eastport-me.gov)

Ray Guilmette - Perry, [rayguilmette7530@gmail.com](mailto:rayguilmette7530@gmail.com)

Amy McDonald - Charlotte, Chair, [amy.mcdonald@sawyermcdonald.com](mailto:amy.mcdonald@sawyermcdonald.com)

Michael Morse - Chair, Eastport Economic Development Committee,  
[Eastportmorse@gmail.com](mailto:Eastportmorse@gmail.com)

Jeanne Peacock - Council Liaison, [jpeacock@ocean-aqua.com](mailto:jpeacock@ocean-aqua.com)

Debi Pride - Charlotte, [iluvsebago@gmail.com](mailto:iluvsebago@gmail.com)

Chris Waite - Sipayik Consultant, Four Directions Maine, [cwaite@fourdirectionsmaine.org](mailto:cwaite@fourdirectionsmaine.org)

*Note: Invitees marked with a hyphen were unable to participate.*

## Guests

Dan Sullivan - Technical Consultant, Sunrise County Economic Council,  
[daniel@cathancelake.com](mailto:daniel@cathancelake.com)

## Meeting Admin

### Eastport Fiber Connectivity Committee

City Hall, 22 Washington Street  
Eastport, Maine 04631

Meeting Date: 6 December 2022

Meeting Time: 0900 - 1030

Meeting Location: Port Authority (downstairs)

Join Zoom Meeting:  
Meeting ID: 840 7023 6662

## **Call to Order**

### **Agenda items:**

1. Adjustment to the agenda.
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Grant request update
4. Facebook update
5. Talking points for Zoom with Tim McAfee at Pioneer
6. Chris Waite/Dan Sullivan overview of their interests, questions, etc for MCA session
7. Addressing the untrue fiber misinformation recently sent to some city residents around the recall of a council member
8. Engaging local communities
9. Next week's agenda

### **Adjustments to the Agenda**

1. Engaging local communities
2. Next week's agenda

### **Review Prior Minutes**

1. No further changes
2. Approved

### **Old Business**

1. None

### **New Business**

1. Grant requests:
  - MCA Get Ready – Awarded \$10,000
    - Who's getting the packet to complete the process
      - Mark will track it down
      - Council will need to accept it
      - Kate would be signatory
      - Ken and Mark will talk to City Treasurer

- Island Institute – Meeting 1 Dec, decision being finalized
  - Nothing yet, Ken will reach out to Christa Thorpe for an update
  - Checks cut 14 Dec

## 2. Facebook:

- Underway, focus of this week for Ken Burke

## 3. Ray Guilmette: Will talk to selectman about chairing Perry Fiber Connectivity Committee

## 4. Elaine Abbot: About grants – do NOT spend any of that money until the grant is signed, etc.

## 5. Zoom with Tim McAfee on planning

- Review DBU planning cost rough n' ready figure
- How can we get a budget number
  - High-level for Council
  - Detailed for Connect the Ready submission
- Elaine Abbot: Looking for talking points for tomorrow?
  - Yes
- Ken: Let's find an interim step/cost to get planning figures to talk with the council
  - Pioneer conversation?
- Chris: Services in the grant program are to create high-level designs
  - Be honest with Tim McAfee that if they offer that service, we're going that route
  - I beleive MCA approach will get us 2/3 of the way there, might not address the low-level design all the way through
- Dan Sullivan: Friday's MCA summit will address some of this
  - Chris Waite: I think we're finally breaking down the walls between the oranization's participating in the planning and grant process with MCA
  - Chris Waite: I'm hoping that we'll get a more detailed budget input from the Connect-the-Ready process

## 6. Washington County Commissioners

- Jeanne Peacock: I think we should get on the Commissioner's January agenda
- Document stating how the county was going to use the ARPA funds
  - Betsey Fitzgerald email: Route to Elaine Abbott
    - Commissioner said that becasue of Maine broadband funding
- Meeting on 12 January, day after council meeting
- Council agenda item for next meeting – Done,
  - S: Draft letter to Kate Devonshire 1200 8 Dec

## 7. Chris Waite/Dan Sullivan: MCA session

- Dan Sullivan faciliatating community financy roundtable
  - Several financial participants, MCA CFO

- What can/can't they do
- Community participants
- Community-owned municipal broadband
- Meeting with CT network builder, interested in expanding into Maine with competitive builds
- **Dan Sullivan's session: 1:00 on Friday, will be on Zoom, scheduled for 55 minutes**
  - Zoom will be no-cost
  - Dan Sullivan will send Zoom link to committee

#### 8. Recall misinformation

- Letter related to a recall effort with false information on the city's fiber initiative cost and resident impact
- We need to get ahead of this
- Letter to the Quoddy Tides
- Alleged withholding of broadband referendum - FALSE
- Satellites - FALSE
  - Dan Sullivan: I can address the downsides of satellites here
- Cost to city/tax impact - FALSE
- Island Institute grant application misinformation - FALSE
- Dan Sullivan: DBU board meetings open to the public
  - These meetings are open, show up
  - Meeting minutes are sent to all DBU participating community councils

## Open Forum

1. None

## Set Next Meeting Date & Agenda

Date/time: 13 Dec, 0900, Port Authority 1st floor

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Adjustment to the agenda.
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Grant request update
4. Facebook update
5. Review of major take-aways from MCA Friday meeting
6. Debrief of call with Tim McAfee of Pionner on survey options/costs

## 7. Agenda for next meeting

### **Administrative Follow-up**

- Minutes to EFCC members for review, comment, and approval
- Minutes to city after EFCC approves
- Agenda to Ella C. Kowal, City Clerk, [ekowal@eastport-me.gov](mailto:ekowal@eastport-me.gov)
  - Posted minimum three days prior to meeting, best practice send to Ella the day of *this* meeting

### **Action Items**

1. xxx

### **Adjourn**

Time: 1000